

Applicants : Pokorzynski et al.
Appln. No. : 09/074,288
Filing Date : May 7, 1998
Confirmation No. : 1982
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Amend claim 6 to read as follows:

6. (Thrice Amended) An integral interior trim member for a vehicle comprising:
an upholstery skin material, said upholstery skin material being substantially
coextensive with said substrate;
a molded foam layer bonded to said upholstery skin material; and
a porous substrate bonded to said molded foam layer, said molded foam layer extending
between said upholstery skin material and said porous substrate.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-10 will remain under consideration in the application. A marked-up version of the amended claims showing the changes from the previous version of the claims is attached hereto, with additions underlined and deletions bracketed.

Claims 1-4 and 6-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. More specifically, the Examiner has objected to the expression "a porous substrate having a first surface in which substantially all of said first surface is exposed to said porous substrate" in claim 1; and the expression "a porous substrate having a first surface integrally formed within said foam layer, wherein substantially all of said first surface is exposed to and bonded to said porous substrate" in claim 6.

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection. Specifically, the offending language has been deleted.

Prior Art

The Office Action did not include any prior art rejections. However, Applicants wish to point out that the claims include a substrate, an upholstery skin material, and molded foam material extending between said upholstery skin material and said substrate. U.S. Patent No. 5,180,617 discloses an interior trim member having an upholstery skin material layer 5, a

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molded foam material 3 bonded to the skin 5, and a fibrous reinforcement 1 embedded within the molded foam material 3. The '617 patent does not teach or suggest a molded foam material extending between an upholstery skin and a substrate. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the porous sheet material 9 that forces the fiber reinforcing material 1 toward facing material 5 in only selected portions of the trim member described in the '617 patent does not constitute a porous substrate that is substantially coextensive with the upholstery skin material. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art of record, including U.S. Patent No. 5,180,617, does not teach or suggest the claimed invention, either individually or in combination. Further, the claimed invention is believed to distinguish over U.S. Patent No. 5,082,609, which does not teach or suggest the claimed combination in which an upholstery skin material is bonded to a substrate by a molded foam material extending between the upholstery skin material and the substrate. More specifically, film 13 is an aliphatic polyurethane applied by means of a spray gun and does not constitute an upholstery skin material.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and notice of the same is earnestly solicited.

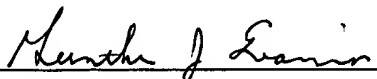
Respectfully submitted,

POKORZYNSKI ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton

March 1, 2001
Date

GJE/daw
JCI01 P-1010



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) An integrated interior trim member for a vehicle comprising:

a porous substrate [having a first surface in which substantially all of said first surface is exposed to said porous substrate];

an upholstery skin material, said upholstery skin material being substantially coextensive with said substrate; and

a molded foam material extending between said upholstery skin material and said [first surface] substrate, [for bonding to] said [upholstery skin] molded foam material [and to said porous substrate and thereby] bonding said skin material to said porous substrate.

6. (Thrice Amended) An integral interior trim member for a vehicle comprising:

an upholstery skin material, said upholstery skin material being substantially coextensive with said substrate;

a molded foam layer bonded to said upholstery skin material; and

a porous substrate [having a first surface integrally formed with said foam layer, wherein substantially all of said first surface is exposed to and] bonded to said [porous substrate and said] molded foam layer, said molded foam layer extending [forms a bond] between said upholstery skin material and said porous substrate [and said upholstery skin material].

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